

The Colored American

A NATIONAL NEGRO NEWSPAPER

Vol. IX, No. 29. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1901. PRICE FIVE CENTS.

A Leader in Gotham.

Edward E. Lee a Factor in New York Politics—A Philanthropist and a Man of Stamina, and the Character of His Life and by His Convictions—The Story of His Life and Successes.

Edward E. Lee, of New York City, the head and front of the Colored Democracy of his State, is one of the most widely known men of his race who take an active part in the politics of his country. What he has done in the way of securing places for those who follow his faith is too well known to be told here again. Those well acquainted with him know him to be a man who heartily and firmly believes that the course he has adopted in politics is right, and the one that will bring good to the colored citizens, not only of New York, but of the whole country. All men must respect the man who has the courage and the stamina to stand up for the principles which he believes to be right.

There is, however, another side to the life of Edward E. Lee that is little known to the world. In his way, and as far as his means will allow, Mr. Lee is a philanthropist. He is a big, tender-hearted man, who never turns a deaf ear to the poor, struggling young colored man who is working his way through the school, the college or the university. In the two large New York City hotels where he has complete control of the hiring of the bellmen and the management of them when employed, there may be found at all seasons of the year many young men, ambitious to obtain an education, working away, studying between labor periods, and saving their earnings for the day when they can afford to spend all of their time in the school house. "Chief" Lee, as he is fondly called, makes life as easy as possible for such men, giving them the preference in the class of work and in length of service. Indeed, he has gone much farther than this. He has time and time again with his own money come to the rescue of the poor, deserving student, and it is generally known that no man of promise has ever appealed to Edward E. Lee in vain.

In all parts of the country there are men in the professions and in other walks of life who owe their education largely to the help given them by this generous man. It is gratifying to know that these young men are proud to acknowledge him as their benefactor, and they are always finding some way to show their gratitude for what he has done for them.

Mr. Lee is a self-made man. Whatever opportunities he has had he made them unaided. In his struggles toward he has encountered some of the world's hard knocks, but this has not served to dry up the milk of human kindness in his breast, as it has done for so many successful men with similar careers. No man is prouder of the success of education, of whatever political faith, than he. With a due regard, of course, to those obligations under which a political party



MR EDWARD E. LEE, New York, N. Y.



MR JAMES B. REED, New Bedford, Mass.

A Great Colored Artist.

James E. Reed, a North Carolinian, Goes to Rhode Island and Wins First Place as a Photographer—A Successful Afro-American Who Keeps in Touch With His Race and is Honored by It.

Mr. James E. Reed, the leading photographer in New Bedford, Mass., comes in for a small share of space in this issue of The Colored American. Mr. Reed's name is almost a household word in New Bedford, where, for the past twenty years, he has conducted a most successful business. In the homes of the best citizens of this staid and aristocratic town may be found and seen the work of Mr. Reed. It will be news, perhaps, to many readers of The Colored American who live in the far South to know that Mr. Reed is not judged by the color of his skin, and that his patrons are not confined to the people of his race. His success has been built upon merit alone. He has grown in his profession and has kept up with the rapid progress that has been made in the photographic art. Mr. Reed has shown beyond successful contradiction what is possible for an Afro-American to accomplish who has pluck, enterprise, and intelligence to make his business the equal if not the superior of those competing in the same line of business. He is a product of the South.

He was born of free parentage in Perquimans County, North Carolina, January 31, 1864. The first fourteen years of his life was spent on his father's farm, and went to school as much as he could between the seasons, as the school term was only four months in the year. In 1876 his parents removed from North Carolina to New Bedford, Mass.; two years later young Reed was brought North by his father, where he arrived March 6, 1878, and, after attending the public schools of New Bedford two years, he then made up his mind to go to work. October 28, 1880, he secured employment as an errand boy in Mr. Geo. F. Parlow's photograph galleries. And of his career there, in Rich's book, "Evidences of Progress Among Colored People," we find the following: "Mr. Parlow found that the young man possessed very excellent qualities of mind, and, as a evidence of his appreciation, asked him if he would like to learn the art of photography. I need not add that Mr. Reed was only too glad to accept the offer. After mastering the profession he worked as an assistant to Mr. Parlow until 1888, when he formed a partnership with Mr. P. C. Headley, Jr., a young white man. The two young men bought out the gallery where Mr. Reed had learned his profession. This firm of Headley & Reed continued in business until 1895, when Mr. Reed bought out the interest of Mr. Headley. These young men were regarded as by far the best workmen in their line in the city. Their patrons were numbered among the very best people in New Bedford. To me the most interesting part of Mr. Reed's work is his partnership

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